

August, 2023



# Ink & Quill

TEXAS SOCIETY OF THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN  
REVOLUTION, DENTON CHAPTER #23, TXSSAR INC.®



**Next Meeting: 10am October 14, 2023**

**Emily**

## Chapter Officers

President—Jim Akers  
Vice President—Brandon Story  
Registrar & Genealogist—  
Tom Richards  
Recording Secretary—Mike Fry  
Treasurer—Christopher Strauss  
Chaplain—Bill Rowell  
Past President—Mike Connelley  
Sgt at Arms—Johnny Loomis  
Color Guard — David Cook

## Opportunities

1. [September 17-23 Constitution Week](#)
2. [October 14 Chapter Meeting](#)
3. [October 22 Texas BOM](#)
4. [January 13 2024 Chapter Meeting](#)
5. [April 11-14 2024 Texas State Annual Conference](#)

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## Chapter President Jim Akers Message:

Hopefully by the October 14, 2023 meeting, this heat wave will have subsided. But the number of potential new members has not! We submitted the applications for two new potential members in July, but as these things happen one has been rejected for some minor administrative issues. We still have one in process, and a potential third new member nearby. In addition, I was approached by District VP and fellow Denton Chapter member about Denton welcoming a transfer member, who lives in Decatur!

Speaking of new members, Compatriot Mike Lester volunteered his truck as the float for the Denton Chapter in the Denton Yankee Doodle Parade on July 1st. Dave Cook, Chris Strauss and Brandon Story were aboard in their Patriot uniforms to wave and smile, with Jim Hobdy and Bill Surles leading "afoot" with our banner. Although we did not win any prizes for our entry, we did come in second place (as I judged it, anyway).

I checked with Jonathan Lange, the Eagle Scout candidate, about his progress in raising funds for his Eagle Scout project. Jonathan seems confident that following his scheduled meeting with an additional donor he will have reached his goal of \$1,000. He has not started the project yet, and that's a good thing. It is just too hot in North Texas for him to start this project yet.

*Continued on the next page..*

Chapter President's Message, continued

We have several upcoming events that you may be interested in. The Texas Society is hosting the Summer Board of Managers meeting via zoom on July 29, 2023 at 9:00 am. Please don't let the "Board of Managers" title deter you: everyone is invited, and all are welcome. This is a chance to see—and offer suggestions—about Texas SAR events and activities for the next year. Registration is \$10.00, and you can register on the Texas Society website ([www.txssar.org](http://www.txssar.org)), and then click on "Events" at the top of the page. Then click on "July Zoom BOM Online Registration."

On October 20-22 the Fall Board of Managers meeting will meet in person at College Station. Again, don't let the Board of Managers title deter you.

April 11-14, 2024 the Texas Society Annual Conference will meet in San Antonio. Registration for this event will be open on the same website at a later date. We are always looking for delegates to this Conference, and San Antonio is always nice in April.

It recently came to my attention that the National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution has a free app for your iPhone or Android device. This is your source for immediate information about most things SAR, including requirements for Youth Programs, the History Teacher Program, Lesson Plans, "Today in the Revolution," and other topics. It is also a convenient link to "How To Join", for that time when your brother-in-law claims to be a direct descendant of General George Washington. If you are receiving this newsletter and are waiting to see if your application has been approved, you can check on the application status right from the app. Of course, you are always welcome to call Tom Richards, or me. The app is on the Apple Store and Android Store as "SAR Education." As I promised in the July Newsletter, we will add an agenda item for the October meeting for members to voluntarily give a short (less than 5 minutes, please) lesson on their Patriot Ancestor. If you wish to participate, now is

the time to refresh your memory of your Patriot Ancestors accomplishments, especially where he served. Maybe some of our ancestors served together.

Constitution Day is September 17, 2023. Constitution Day commemorates the formation and signing of the US Constitution by 39 Compatriots on that day in 1787. Our Color Guard has been asked to participate in the Benjamin Lyon Chapter (Denton, TX) of the Daughters of the American Revolution Ringing of the Bells celebration one day during that week. As soon as we have a specific date, time, and place, I will let you know. We could also use more members of the Color Guard. For specifics, please see Compatriot David Cook.

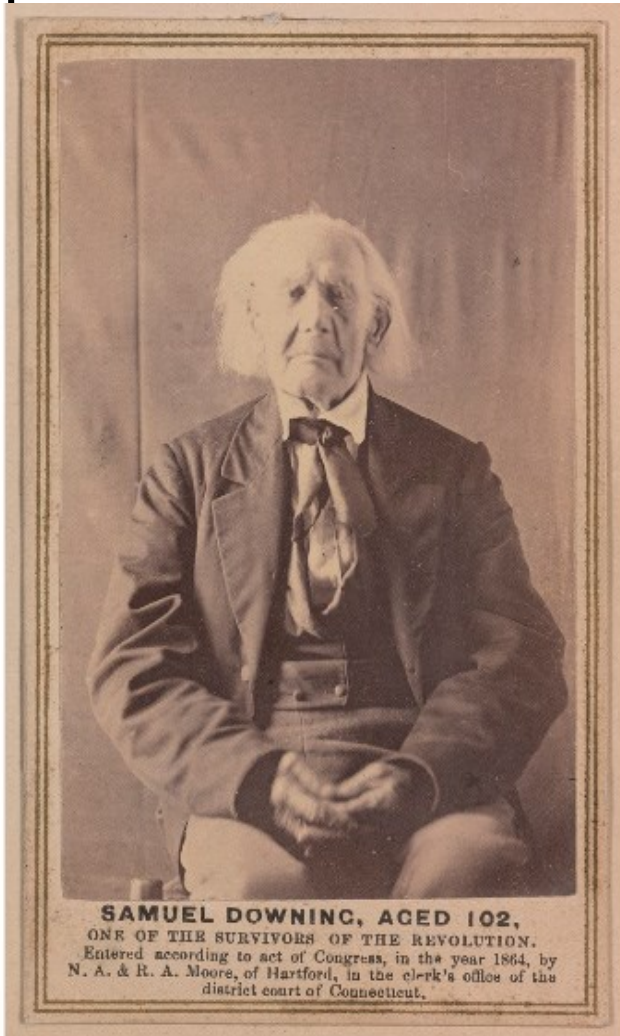
While we are on the subject of the Denton Color Guard, the Color Guard has grown from two members to four, in about six months. That makes our Color Guard bigger than other, larger North Texas chapters! Compatriot David Cook is to be commended for his successes in establishing and growing the Color Guard.

Our next in-person meeting will be the second Saturday in October, October 14, **2023, 10:00 am** at the **Emily Fowler Public Library, 502 Oakland Street, Denton, TX 76201**. The speaker is scheduled to be retired UNT history professor and current president of the New Mexico Historical Society, Gus Seligmann. Dr. Seligmann is an informative speaker, with an entertaining style of delivery. Please mark your calendar for this meeting, and please feel free to bring your wives or other guests.

Promote patriotism. Preserve American History. Promote education to our future generations. These three things describe what the Sons of the American Revolution does. The Denton Chapter is committed to each of them, as shown by our activities of not only this month, but throughout the year.

Ron Akers, Denton Chapter President

Selection from the [SAR Denton TX Chapter](#) Facebook page



A conversation with Samuel Downing, one of the last survivors of the Revolutionary War. He would die February 19, 1867, at 105 years of age.

“The first duty I ever did was to guard wag-  
ons from Exeter to Springfield. We played  
the British a trick; I can remember what I  
said as well as can be. We all started off on  
a run, and as I couldn't see anything, I said,  
'I don't see what the devil we're running  
after or running away from; for I can't see  
anything.' One of the officers behind me  
said, 'Run, you little dog, or I'll spontoon  
you,' 'Well,' I answered, 'I guess I can run  
as fast as you can and as far.' Pretty soon I  
found they were going to surprise a British  
train. We captured it; and among the  
stores were some hogsheads of rum. So  
when we got hack to camp that night the  
officers had a great time drinking and gam-  
bling; but none for the poor soldiers.

**See more on our Facebook  
page**

### Editor's Note

The Chapter **website** is <https://www.txssar.org/Denton/>. On that site are the back copies of this newsletter, information about the Chapter, and links to the SAR State and National web sites.

We have a **Facebook page**, [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com), search for SAR **Denton TX Chapter**. Please join and participate.

All of these communication devices take time to maintain. If you would like to help and/or take over one of these, please let me know.

**Bill Surles, [wsmerch@gmail.com](mailto:wsmerch@gmail.com)**

Denton SAR Chapter  
Color Guard News, August, 2023



**Current Status:**

Congratulations to Brandon Story for becoming our newest Color Guard Member. Brandon became a member at the July 1 Independence Day parade in Denton wearing his militia uniform. The Denton Chapter SAR Color Guard now has four members.

Since member's schedules affect participation, the Chapter must have additional Color Guard Members in order to have an effective unit. The time and cost are minor compared to the benefits in becoming a Color Guard member.

Contact me as the Chapter Color Guard Commander for information on becoming a member.

**Recent Events**

Independence Day parade on July 1 in Denton with the Chapter pickup entry.

Naturalization ceremonies:



Photo: Naturalization Ceremony in March 2023 at UTD.

**Future Opportunities**

The next event will be in September celebrating the signing of the United States Constitution. The events will include joint activities with the DAR chapters

A possible Color Guard event will be Veterans Day ceremonies **if the chapter has enough color guard members.**

**Color Guard Notes**

The latest National Color Guard newsletter has the photo taken at the Naturalization ceremony in March that includes David Cook and Tom Richards of the Denton Color Guard.

The national Color Guard Newsletter also includes a note from the SAR National Color Guard Commander, Scott Collins

**“We are the face of the Sons of the American Revolution at the national, state, and chapter levels. Accordingly, as we further the Patriotic, Historic, and Educational Goals of the SAR let us have fun, enjoy the comradely, and practice safety for yourself and others. Yours in Patriotism**

**K. Scott Collins National Society SAR Color Guard Commander”**

**David R. Cook**

**Color Guard Commander**

**706-835-5910**

**davidcook1936@gmail.com**



## Minutes for Chapter Meeting July 8, 2023

President Jim Akers called this meeting to order at 10: 00 a.m.

Installed 3 new members: Stanley Hobbs, Randy Nusbaum, Mike Lester

President Jim Akers lead a challenging discussion on what date did the United States become the United States.

Ancestor's roll call was conducted by Jim Akers

Chapter Treasurer Report by Chris Strauss Total \$3,527.00 Motion to accept Brandon Story second Mike Connelley

Minutes of the April meeting noted. Moxon made to accept by Mike Lester. Second by Bill Surles

**Old Business:** Discussion concerning City of Denton Proclamation led by Jim Akers. Brandon Story reported on SAR shirt purchases.

**New Business:** Bill Surles reviewed Sar participation in July 4<sup>th</sup> "Yankee Doodle Parade" Jim Akers and Chris Strauss discussed raising yearly dues to \$57.00

Mike Connelley discussed Youth Programs to begin this September. He reminded us to submit a design for the chapter Challenge Coin. Discussed SAR Scholarship program.

Mike asked members to e-mail him when we represent the chapter at a Veteran funeral or other veteran functions.

Jim Akers reported the progress on the Eagle Scout Bird Observation Tower rehab on Lake Lewisville by Scout Johnathan Lang.

Jim Akers discussed chapter officers upcoming election and asked members to sign up.



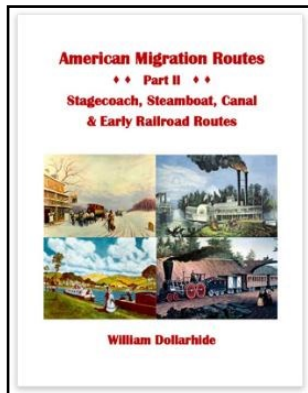
Introducing new members



Honoring Chris

## FOLLOW YOUR ANCESTORS' MOVEMENTS IN *AMERICAN MIGRATION ROUTES, PARTS I & II*

Have you ever wondered how your ancestors travelled across our nation? Have you wished you could follow their migration path? Two books new to Emily Fowler Special Collections might be the books you need to prepare for a future trip along your family's path.



***American Migration Routes Part 1 - Indian Paths, Post Roads & Wagon Roads***, by William Dollarhide (2022), is 139 pages chock-full of 88 maps and 77 routes, illustrating a specific era of American transportation history:

- Indian Paths to Post Roads (1630-1669)
- The King's Highway (1680-1765)
- Scots-Irish Wagon Roads (1720-1750)
- Trans-Appalachian Trails & Roads (1755-1796)
- Roads to the Ohio Country (1787-1818)
- Roads of the Old Southwest (1806-1832)
- Western Migration Routes (1821-1869)

Each chapter includes a locator map and an introduction to the historic era. The migration routes are enlarged on two side-by-side maps, with the left-hand page features the highlighted trace of a migration route on a modern highway map; the right-hand page traces the route on a county boundary map. The maps were designed to enable a road trip that follows the trace of an old migration route; an arrow symbolizes the road trip directions needed to repeat the trip today.

Dollarhide's second volume, ***American Migration Routes Part 2 - Stagecoach, Steamboat, Canal & Early Railroad Routes*** (2022) takes the travel routes of Henry S. Tanner's 1840 book *American Traveller*, and adds new maps for each of its 45 travel hub cities. Again, the routes are traced on a current road map, with an adjoining map showing current county boundaries. Modern driving directions are included, hyperlinked to Google Maps.

Migration routes included in this book:

- Turnpikes & Stagecoach Routes (1795-1845)
- Steamboat Routes (1815-1840)
- Canals & Waterways (1790-1855)
- Early Railroad Routes (1830-1840)

Both books are updated from 1997 versions, and offer full (or nearly full) color throughout. Also included are Tables of Migration Routes for each chapter, with road trips, notes and links to historical references online.

If you've dreamed of literally tracing the paths your ancestors took, take a look at ***American Migrations, Part I*** and ***Part II*** to get started.

—Nancy Gilbride Casey  
DPL Volunteer